

International School of Havana

2013-2014 Fact Sheet



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International School of Havana (ISH) is a fully accredited (by NEASC and CIS), private, coeducational day school which offers an academic program from preschool education (age 2 1/2) through grade 12 for students of all nationalities - 61 currently. The School has been in existence in various forms since 1965. The School was founded and exists with the intention of offering high quality education to the children of foreign diplomats and members of the expatriate business community in Havana. The school year comprises three academic terms extending from late August to late June.

Organization: a Board of Directors made up of both heads of diplomatic missions from various countries and appointed members of the diplomatic and non-diplomatic communities governs the School.

Curriculum: In the early years program, the curriculum is adapted from the six areas of learning that make up the Foundation Stage in the National Curriculum of England and is enriched by themed units of enquiry from the International Primary Curriculum (I.P.C.) and variations added from different school systems. However, the program follows a fundamentally British model. The lower school curriculum is internationally based around the I.P.C., the standards of the National Curriculum of England for Language Arts and the same standards for mathematics taught primarily through the Cambridge Mathematics program. The I.P.C. provides enrichment and a core body of internationalism that supports international mindedness and this we feel helps us to meet some of the particular needs of our multi-national student body. The lower school curriculum is structured to prepare students for the secondary school stage that is derived initially from the standards of the University of Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (I.G.C.S.E.). Students sit those examinations at the end of grade 10 but are also assessed at an interim point, the end of Grade 8 by the CIE (Cambridge International Examinations) Checkpoint in English, Mathematics and Science. Beyond grade 10 the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program and the ISH graduation diploma both involve a two year program of study leading, in the case of the IB diploma, to examinations at the end of grade 12 that serve as university matriculation qualifications; while the ISH diploma uses a points system wherein credits are built up over the two years. The language of instruction is English and we provide English-as-a-second-language help for those students arriving here with little or no English. We also offer courses to all students in Spanish at both first and foreign language levels from grade 1 onwards and French as an alternative to Spanish from grade 5 onwards. Languages are regarded as an important part of the experience that a student has at ISH.

Faculty: The majority of the teaching staff is bi-lingual Cuban nationals. However, we make every effort to recruit and employ an international staff. There are 22 third-country nationals amongst the teaching body including citizens of Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Ireland, Portugal and the U.K.

Enrollment: At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, enrollment is 370 (PS-grade 5: 213; grades 6-8: 79; grades 9-12: 78). The diversity of the student body makes the School a truly "world experience" for their students.

Facilities: The School has two campuses, located in the Miramar district of Havana. One is for students from the Early Years Program (2.5 years to 4) and the other for kindergarten to grade 12 students. The main compound consists of two teaching blocks in adapted houses as well as purpose built classrooms in a connecting block, a library and science block, and a recreation area between the houses and the various other outbuildings. A very limited bus transportation system, along pre-determined routes is available to parents on a first come, first served basis. Our facilities include a well-resourced library and media center with Internet connection, science laboratories, computer laboratories and a playground with apparatus and play areas for the children.

Finances: In the 2013-2014 school year, annual tuition rates are as follows: PS: \$4,000; K-grade 8: \$10,450; grades 9-10 \$11,800; grades 11-12: \$12,150 payable by term or by special arrangement only, on a monthly basis. There is also an annual capital development fee of \$300. All students (excluding students in grades 11-12) are charged a one-time matriculation fee of \$1,500. (All fees are payable in USD at the applicable exchange rates.) (All fees are quoted in U.S. dollars.)

This Fact Sheet is intended to provide general information. Prospective users of the Schools may wish to inquire further of A/OPR/OS or contact the School directly for more specific and up-to-the-minute information regarding curriculum, special programs, and the like. Information and statistics are current as of September 2013 and are provided by the School.